

Ivy L. Lee and Associates

111 Broadway

New York

Memorandum

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

April 7, 1926.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your friendly letter of April 5. I am sorry you do not agree with me in this Russian matter. I hope you really understand just what I am seeking, that is, a calm and considerate investigation of the facts and factors in this Russian situation. I am enclosing a copy of a letter I have written to my friend, Ralph Easley, who was himself a little bit anxious about my position. May I also quote to you from another letter I have written to Paxton Hibben who wrote to me on this subject.

"Of course, as my letters will indicate, I am not in sympathy with the Communistic ideas of the Russian Government. In fact, the policy I want to pursue with Russia is a policy which will, I believe, show the fallacy of Communism rather than encourage it. But be that as it may, I regard the question as a thoroughly practical one. I am never afraid of any propaganda from any source. Facts are facts and nothing destroys error as quickly as exposing it to the light. My own belief is that if active relations are restored between United States and Russia, the circulation of American business men among the Russians will do the Russian theories more damage than will the free circulation of Russian propagandists among us. But there again is theory. What I want the Chamber of Commerce to do is to get at the facts so that America's policy in this matter will be enlightened, not merely based upon political prejudices."

It would seem that if I was trying to promote definitely and immediately the recognition of Soviet Russia, I would not seek to do it through the Chamber of Commerce of New York. The only reason I have taken this up with the Chamber is because of my belief in the fact that the views of the Chamber in this subject would be accepted by the entire business community as absolutely compelling.

With kindest regards, I am,

Always sincerely,

(Signed) IVY L. LEE

Mr. Lewis E. Pierson,
Chairman of the Board,
Irving Bank-Columbia Trust Co.,
60 Broadway,
New York City.